

For immediate release
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The Whitsundays Shines at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards

It was the Australian tourism industry's night of nights, and The Whitsundays was front and centre of the celebrations at the 2021 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards at the Sunshine Coast Convention Centre on Friday 18 March, 2022.

The Whitsundays continues to deliver exceptional experiences with three operators in the running for the top spots across four different categories; Red Cat Adventures – Major Tour and Transport Operator and Adventure Tourism, Pinnacles Resort – Self Contained Accommodation and InterContinental Hayman Island Resort – 5 Star Accommodation.

Whitsunday operators received awards across all four categories they were nominated in:

- Red Cat Adventures won GOLD for Adventure Tourism.
- Red Cat Adventures won SILVER for Major Tour and Transport Operators.
- Pinnacles Resort won SILVER in Self Contained Accommodation.
- InterContinental Hayman Island Resort won BRONZE in 5 Star Accommodation.

Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer, Rick Hamilton said while we may be a small region, our world-class offerings, iconic destinations and passionate operators shined at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.

“Tourism operators in The Whitsundays consistently deliver high-level experiences, they are dedicated to showcasing the best of our region and I am delighted that we had three national finalists up for four awards.

“Congratulations and well done to Red Cat Adventures, Pinnacles Resort and InterContinental Hayman Island Resort for doing our region proud and representing the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef on a national level,” Mr Hamilton said.

Tourism is the lifeblood of many businesses in The Whitsundays; it accounts for one in three jobs and injects over \$927 million into the local economy. It's fair to say these national wins help to put The Whitsundays top of mind for holidaymakers when seeking the very best experiences on offer.

Owner of Red Cat Adventures and Tourism Whitsundays Chair, Julie Telford was ecstatic to take home gold again!

“Being recognised at a national level for the third time, in two award categories, is a tremendous honour for our business and The Whitsundays after what can only be described as a challenging last two years.

“We have an amazing team at Red Cat Adventures who have helped make these wins possible,” she said.

The Australian Tourism Awards is the tourism industry's peak awards recognising and promoting excellence in the Australian tourism industry. First established by the Federal Government in 1985, the Australian Tourism Awards are now owned and managed by Australian Tourism Awards Inc, on behalf of the tourism industry.

General Manager of InterContinental Hayman Island Resort, Arpad Romandy proudly congratulated the winners.

“It has been a challenging few years for the tourism industry, with international travellers now returning, it's also an exciting time for The Whitsundays tourism sector to continue to shine and showcase our unique experiences and products.

MEDIA RELEASE



THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

“The recognition of being showcased on a national stage and achieving a bronze award is an honour. The team at InterContinental Hayman Island Resort are passionate and dedicated to ensuring that our guests have an incredible experience with us,” Mr Romandy said.

Congratulations to Red Cat Adventures, Pinnacles Resort and InterContinental Hayman Island Resort for their achievements and for proudly representing the Whitsunday region.

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To view a Word Document of this release and supporting images, [click here](#).

To view The Whitsundays destination video, [click here](#).

About Tourism Whitsundays: *Tourism Whitsundays (TW) is the organisation responsible for destination marketing and visitor attraction for the Whitsunday region. It is the lead agency recognised by Tourism and Events Queensland and the Whitsunday Regional Council to lead the promotion of the region as a tourism destination. Tourism Whitsundays markets all aspects of the region including the Great Barrier Reef, Whitsunday Islands and Coast, accommodation, boating and sailing, fishing, touring, recreational activities, adventure, dining, shopping, weddings and honeymoons, conferencing and business events.*

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